

HORSE PROTECTION

PROGRAM PROFILE

Goal	Eliminate the inhumane practice of soring.
Enabling Legislation	Horse Protection (HP) Act of 1970, as amended in 1976. Legislation limits appropriation to \$500,000.
Economic Significance	Program strives to maintain integrity of the horse's value by assuring that horses are not sored to improve their gait.
Principal Approach And Methods Used to Achieve Goals	This is a regulatory program. Program methods include inspection using physical and visual examination, and civil and criminal sanctions.
History	<p>The program began in 1972. Designated Qualified Person (DQP) program was initiated in 1979 to assist industry in self-regulation. DQP's are trained by USDA-certified organizations to detect soring, and hired by show managers to inspect horses. On October 30, 1990, U.S. Court of Appeals reversed lower court decision and upheld an APHIS regulation on action devices.</p> <p>The Veterinary Services unit administered the HP program from its inception until October 1, 1989, at which time this program was placed under the newly created Regulatory Enforcement and Animal Care unit as part of Agency reorganization. Animal Care was made a separate units at the beginning of FY 1997 when Regulatory Enforcement became part of APHIS Business Services.</p>
State and Local Cooperation	No State matching requirement.
Involvement of Other Agencies	Department of Justice--criminal proceedings.

RESOURCE DATA

	-----Obligations-----				
	<u>Direct</u>	<u>Reimbursement</u>	<u>User Fees</u>	<u>Staff-Years</u>	
FY 1996	413,427	--	--	7	
FY 1997	384,959	--	--	4	
FY 1998	357,891	--	--	4	
FY 1999	373,446	--	--	4	
FY 2000 (est.)	361,000	--	--	4	
FY 2001 (est.)	398,000	--	--	4	
	<u>APHIS</u>	<u>Coop</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>CCC</u>	<u>Contingency Fund</u>
Cum.	\$8,288,362	--	\$8,288,362	--	--

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Horse Protection Strategic Plan

In FY 1998, APHIS published the Horse Protection Strategic Plan proposing to transfer increased enforcement responsibilities to the Horse Industry Organizations (HIO). Only one of the six HIOs agreed to the plan. As urged by the report that accompanied the FY 1999 Agriculture Appropriations Act, APHIS negotiated and executed an enforcement agreement with the HIOs which more clearly defined the duties and responsibilities of USDA and the HIOs for the 1999 horse show season. In preparing this agreement, called the Horse Protection Act (HPA) 1999 Operating Plan, APHIS worked with the HIOs to establish reasonable procedures and penalties. The HPA Operating Plan is organized into nine components and covers APHIS and HIO responsibilities; certification of HIO designated qualified person programs; inspections; compliance with 9 CFR 11.3 (the scar rule); HIO sanctions for HPA violations; conflict resolution; and regulatory changes. All 8 HIOs signed the revised plan, which is effective until December 31, 1999. In August 1999, APHIS met with the HIOs to discuss the outcomes of the 1999 Plan and develop ideas for improving the plan for 2000.

Horse Protection/2

Throughout 1999, APHIS attended HIO horse shows to evaluate the effectiveness of the Plan and assure HIO compliance. Overall, the plan was successful. We are considering changes for 2000 that should improve the effectiveness of the plan and expect to publish it by the end of 1999.

During 1999, APHIS initiated several Federal cases where an HIO failed to properly enforce the required penalty. As is customary, the cases were subsequently forwarded to the Office of General Counsel for prosecution.

In addition, one other organization has been certified bringing the total number of HIOs to nine.